

I call on all Members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers, to join with me to ensure that the Office of Government Information Services is promptly established and fully funded within the National Archives. The American people have waited for more than a decade for this office and for the other historic FOIA reforms contained in the OPEN Government Act. They should not be forced to wait any longer.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of a letter from a coalition of more than 40 different open government organizations that strongly oppose moving the Office of Government Information Services to the Department of Justice be printed in the RECORD.

Congress must work to beat back the administration's ill-advised attempts to undermine the intent of Congress in a bill that this President signed into law. In the coming weeks and months, I will be working with other advocates of FOIA in the Senate to do just that.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEBRUARY 6, 2008.

Hon. ROBERT C. BYRD, Chairman

Hon. THAD COCHRAN, Ranking Member,
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BYRD AND RANKING MEMBER COCHRAN: We are writing to express our concern that the Bush Administration's proposed FY 2009 budget attempts to repeal a section of law and shift funding for a new Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to the Department of Justice (DOJ). President Bush signed the Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act (OPEN Government Act), which creates OGIS at NARA, a mere five weeks ago. We urge you to ensure the President's budget reflects congressional intent and the explicit mandate of the statute as the budgetary process unfolds.

Currently, the president's budget proposes: "The Department of Justice shall carry out the responsibilities of the office established in 5 U.S.C. 552(h), from amounts made available in the Department of Justice appropriation for General Administration Salaries and Expenses. In addition, subsection (h) of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is hereby repealed, and subsections (i) through (l) are redesignated (h) through (k). (Commerce, Justice, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.)" (Section 519 of Title V of the Department of Commerce; p. 239 of the Appendix)

The OPEN Government Act (P.L. 110-175) established OGIS specifically at NARA. It did so as a result of congressional findings that interests promoted by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as well as American traditions and ideals regarding the value of an informed citizenry and the legitimacy of representative government, were being insufficiently served by the existing system of agency practices and implementation, in which DOJ has been the lead agency for 30 years. Additionally, since it is the responsibility of the Department to defend its government-agency clients in litigation brought by requestors, there is a built-in conflict of interest in vesting DOJ with responsibilities to resolve FOIA disputes informally and to hold agencies accountable for FOIA implementation. Congress specifically directed the

creation of an ombudsman office apart from the Department of Justice for mediation of contested requests, thus reducing the amount, and concomitant costs, of litigation—burdens whose reduction would be beneficial to all. The new office, established with strong bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, also has the critical mandate to evaluate agency implementation of FOIA with a disinterested eye.

We strongly oppose this effort to use the budget process to rewrite the law, undermining congressional intent and flouting a specific statutory mandate. We urge you to appropriate necessary funds to establish the Office of Government Information Services in the National Archives and Records Administration, as your legislation wisely requires, and, to reinforce the intent of the OPEN Government Act, reject Section 519 of the proposed budget.

Sincerely,

Access Reports, Inc.; American Association of Law Libraries; American Association of Publishers; American Civil Liberties Union; American Library Association; American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression; Association of Research Libraries; Bill of Rights Defense Committee; Californians Aware; Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington; Citizens for Sunshine; Coalition on Political Assassinations; DownsizeDC.org, Inc.; Electronic Frontier Foundation; Essential Information; Feminists for Free Expression; Government Accountability Project; Indiana Coalition for Open Government; The James Madison Project; Justice Through Music; League of Women Voters of the U.S.;

Liberty Coalition; Maine Association of Broadcasters; Minnesota Coalition on Government Information; National Coalition Against Censorship; National Freedom of Information Coalition; The National Security Archives; 9/11 Research Group; OMB Watch; Open Society Policy Center; OpenTheGovernment.org; PEN American Center; Project On Government Oversight; Public Citizen; Readthebill.org Foundation; The Rutherford Institute; Society of Professional Journalists; Society of Professional Journalists Montana Professional Chapter; Special Libraries Association; Sunlight Foundation; United States Bill of Rights Foundation; Velvet Revolution; Washington Coalition for Open Government.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I congratulate the American Society of Hematology—ASH—on its 50th anniversary and to pay tribute to the contributions they have made in preventing and eliminating blood related diseases.

The society has grown substantially from its 200 members at its inception in 1958, to over 15,000 members presently, and is recognized as the world's premier organization in research promotion, clinical care, education, training, and advocacy in the field of hematology.

Society members consist of practitioners and researchers who have been able to translate Federal research dollars into effective treatments for millions of people afflicted with diseases that were at one time untreatable and

fatal. The blood and blood-related diseases studied and treated by hematologists include disorders such as leukemia and lymphoma, thrombosis, anemia and bleeding, and congenital disorders such as sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, and thalassemia. The advancements in remedies of these disorders are a direct result of the continuing efforts made by the AHS.

I sustained an episode with Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer 2 years ago. That trauma, that illness, I think, could have been prevented had that war on cancer declared by the President Nixon in 1970 been prosecuted with sufficient intensity. All of us know people who have been stricken by fatal diseases and many other maladies. It is my hope that other organizations will use the success of the AHS as an example in contributing to this Nation's desire for finding cures for the most fatal diseases.

As chairman, and now ranking member of the appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, I have been an ardent supporter of securing Federal funds for the National Institutes of Health the crown jewel of the Federal Government, maybe the only jewel of the Federal Government. Health is the country's No. 1 capital asset, and the American Society of Hematology has contributed to its success.

Hematologists have been instrumental in pioneering the use of hydroxyurea in the treatment of sickle cell disease and have developed the first successful cure of childhood leukemia. Moreover, hematologists were responsible for the research that led to, Gleevec, the first anticancer drug developed to target a molecular problem that causes chronic myelogenous leukemia.

The American Society of Hematology has played an important role in the unprecedented growth and advancement of hematology research. With so many great successes over the past 50 years, I am confident the next 50 years will bring ASH and its over 15,000 members even more accomplishments in treating and eliminating blood diseases.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING ESTHER G. KEE

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, it is a privilege for me to honor Mrs. Esther G. Kee who is retiring as president of the United States-Asia Institute which she cofounded with the late Joji Konoshima in 1979, with the encouragement and support of then-President Jimmy Carter.

The objectives of the United States-Asia Institute are to promote better understanding between the United States and Asia, to conduct work and educational visits to Asia for Members of Congress and their staff, to maintain close ties with Asian diplomatic missions, to organize international and

conferences and symposiums in the U.S. and Asia on political, economic, and security topics, and to host small, off-the-record meetings of American and Asian officials, businessmen and academic leaders providing a venue for free and open discussions and exchange of views.

Under Mrs. Kee's stewardship, the institute has successfully met its objectives, and I am confident that it will continue to do so under the tutelage of her successor. One of Mrs. Kee's most successful initiatives has been staff codels which she has organized and led. As an example, there were 70 staff codels with 800 senior congressional staff that traveled to China to meet and discuss issues with high government officials. This has facilitated mutual understanding, a core objective, and people-to-people diplomacy the benefits of which will continue to inure to our mutual benefit.

As Mrs. Kee retires from active leadership of the United States-Asia Institute, I have every confidence that she will continue to be active in the institute and United States-Asia relations as a valued adviser. On a personal level, I look forward to her continued counsel and advice.

Mahalo nui loa—thank you very much—Esther G. Kee, for all that you have done on behalf of our country in its continuing and important mission of promoting better understanding between the United States and Asia.●

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH M. DELL'OLIO

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish today to commend someone whom I have admired for my entire time in this body, a man who has committed his life to helping society's most vulnerable. Joe Dell'Olio, who is retiring after 35 years at Child, Incorporated, is a dedicated public servant in the true sense of the word.

Joe started at Child, Inc., of Wilmington after spending his early career fighting to reduce Delaware's crime rate. In 1972, after just 2 years as the executive director of the Delaware Agency to Reduce Crime, we saw the crime rate cut by 7 percent. As the head of the agency responsible for leading that fight, perhaps no one was due more credit than Joe.

Joe then joined Child, Inc. in 1973, the same year I was sworn in to the Senate. As executive vice president, he was responsible for the development and administration of a wide range of advocacy and service programs for victims of domestic violence and their families. Joe and I grew together as we fought to empower and protect victims of domestic violence in our community.

While I labored in the Senate to write and pass the Violence Against Women Act, Joe Dell'Olio was on the front lines in our battle. He was the one on the street or in the counseling room. He was the one securing legal help when victims could not afford it. And he was the one who made sure

someone was there when a victim had nowhere to go.

I consider the Violence Against Women Act my proudest legislative accomplishment. But the Joe Dell'Olios of the world are the ones who deserve the credit for our progress. Joe has received several awards, including some from the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

Throughout my career, I have been privileged to work with some of the finest public servants our Nation has ever known, those who committed their lives to the greater good. None have been more unwaveringly focused on a worthy cause than has Joe Dell'Olio, even as he raised a loving family of his own. Joe's tireless sense of duty and his unrelenting service never cease to amaze me.

I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF LARKSPUR

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Larkspur, located in Marin County, CA.

The city of Larkspur was incorporated into the State of California on March 1, 1908. This year, we celebrate its centennial anniversary. With a downtown that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the architecture that defines the city of Larkspur has fascinated and charmed visitors for decades. Its historical structures and natural surroundings provide residents and visitors alike a glimpse of California the way it was at the start of the 20th century.

The city is divided into two distinct areas, with its historic downtown area to the west of Highway 101 and Larkspur Landing, an outdoor shopping area with sublime bay views, to the east of Highway 101. Just across the street from Larkspur Landing, travelers can catch the Larkspur Ferry to the San Francisco Ferry Building, a ride that offers spectacular views of Mount Tamalpais, Angel Island, and the Golden Gate Bridge. This outstanding natural scenery in the midst of such a finely preserved historical setting makes the slogan "Meet me in Larkspur" a common phrase amongst residents and visitors alike.

From the preservation of historic Magnolia Avenue to the conservation of the celebrated Blue Rock Inn, the city of Larkspur offers visitors a vibrant look at smalltown California as it was in the early 1900s. For 100 years, the city of Larkspur has not only served as a recreational escape and historical wonderland for those visiting the city but a place to call home for its more than 11,000 residents. I commend the city of Larkspur for maintaining the natural beauty and historical significance that defines this fine city.

The city of Larkspur's vision and commitment to protecting its small piece of California history should be commended. I congratulate the city of Larkspur for its hard work on this spe-

cial occasion, and I look forward to future generations having the opportunity to visit and enjoy this unique city.●

RETIREMENT OF CAROLYN DOWNS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of Carolyn Downs. She has tirelessly worked on behalf of the poor throughout her life, including many years of outstanding service as the director of The Banquet in Sioux Falls, SD. Carolyn has been committed to providing a safe place where people may gather to receive nourishment and fellowship.

Throughout her 20 years at The Banquet, Carolyn has touched the lives of innumerable needy individuals and families. Her devotion to feeding the hungry sets an example to the community of a life devoted to the betterment of people all over South Dakota. All of the guests that she has served have seen what is described as her cheerful strength.

Her work at The Banquet has not only touched the lives of the hungry but has given many South Dakotans an opportunity to volunteer and become involved in their community. Carolyn's work has brought out the best in people around her and is an inspiration to all of South Dakota.

Under her leadership, The Banquet turned into a vital resource center institution for the hungry and is one of the pillars of the Sioux Falls community. Her humility, grace, leadership skills, and humble service will be greatly missed when she retires. All of her work has not been for public praise or external reward but, rather, a deeply held belief in serving others. The State of South Dakota and all of its residents owe her a debt of gratitude for all that she had done to better it.

Carolyn will be retiring this February. Though her day-to-day presence at The Banquet will be greatly missed, her years of hard work are appreciated by all that volunteer and use The Banquet. I applaud Carolyn Downs's service and thank her for her time and efforts.●

TRIBUTE TO LABRADFORD EAGLE DEER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to offer a statement about a distinguished South Dakota youth, LaBradford Eagle Deer. LaBradford, 16, of St. Francis, SD, was one of two teens who represented the United States at the United Nations' observation of the 20th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty last October. Six young people from across the world were chosen to speak at the event on a panel about what they thought needed to be done about poverty.

According to the United Nations' Web site, the U.N. General Assembly declared October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of